UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/2008
25 October 1995

W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Population programmes rank among great success stories of our time, Secretary-General tells Ceremony of World Leaders on Population Stabilization.

* Secretary-General, in address to Human Rights Forum, says human rights are founding purpose and ultimate goal of United Nations.

* Special commemorative meeting of General Assembly addressed by 200 leaders, including 91 heads of State, 8 vice-presidents, 1 crown prince and 37 prime ministers.

* Secretary-General expresses condolences following death of former UNCTAD Secretary-General Kenneth Dadzie.

* Committee on Rights of Child to hold tenth session in Geneva from 30 October to 17 November.

* DPI publishes special commemorative issue of World Media Handbook for fiftieth anniversary of United Nations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed his pride in the important role played by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and other parts of the United Nations system in population programmes. In a statement at the Ceremony of World Leaders on Population Stabilization, he said he had experienced a high point at the Cairo Conference on Population and Development --more than 180 governments focusing on improving the quality of life of women and men everywhere.

Population programmes were one of the great success stories of our time, the Secretary-General stressed. During the 1960s, the world's population had grown by more than 2 per cent annually, with an average of five births for each woman. Since then, the growth rate had fallen to 1.6 per cent, with only three births for each woman.

"There is still a long way to go," he went on to say. "But population programmes have made a difference. A difference in the number of people that the planet must sustain. A difference in the progress made towards social and

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economic development. And, most important, a difference in the health, well-being and aspirations of families around the world."

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In celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations, no theme is more important than the rights of the human person, according to the Secretary-General. In an address to the Human Rights Forum today, he said human rights were the founding purpose and ultimate goal of the Organization. The history of human rights law and practice was also the history of the United Nations itself.

The General Assembly had consistently worked to broaden and deepen its action for human rights, he continued. Beyond that, the Organization had pushed forward the frontiers of human rights to encompass new fields: genocide, slavery, torture, and the elimination of discrimination based on race, sex or religious convictions.

"We can and must go further," the Secretary-General concluded. Democracy -- both within and among States -- is ultimately the sole true guarantor of human rights. Much of what we can do can be termed diplomacy for democracy. And development must now centre on the rights of the human person."

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The three-day special commemorative meeting of the General Assembly for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations was the largest ever gathering of world leaders. It was addressed by 91 heads of State, eight vice-presidents, one crown prince, 37 prime ministers, 10 deputy prime ministers, 21 foreign ministers, nine chairmen of delegations and 23 observers -- a total of 200 speakers.

The dominant theme of the meeting was reform of the United Nations. Many speakers called for an expansion of the membership of the Security Council. The need for greater transparency, democratization and accountability in the Council and other United Nations organs was stressed. Speakers deplored the current financial crisis, and highlighted the need for Member States to pay their dues in full and on time.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of the "Declaration on the Occasion of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the United Nations," exactly 50 years after the Charter entered into force. It declared that the anniversary must be seized as an opportunity to redirect the Organization to greater service to humankind, especially to those who were suffering and were deeply deprived. "This is the practical and moral challenge of our time."

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed deep condolences to the family of Kenneth Dadzie, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), who died this morning in London. When Mr. Dadzie concluded his term of office on 31 March 1994, Mr. Boutros-Ghali described him as an outstanding civil servant who had demonstrated the highest intellectual skills and deepest dedication to the ideals of the United Nations.

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The Committee on the Rights of the Child will hold its tenth session in Geneva from 30 October to 17 November. The Committee will discuss the promotion and protection of children's rights in Italy, Ukraine, Germany, Senegal, Portugal and the Holy See. It will devote particular attention to the administration of juvenile justice.

The Committee, a 10-member panel of independent experts, is charged with monitoring the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. To date, 180 States have ratified the Convention, which is the most complete statement of children's rights ever made.

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The Department of Public Information (DPI) has published a special commemorative issue of the World Media Handbook for the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. The 1995 Handbook is a directory of selected media and related data covering more than 180 countries. It includes information on more than 1,300 daily newspapers, 1,900 magazines, 250 news agencies, 1,200 broadcasting organizations, and 400 journalists' associations.

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TED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General warns United Nations will be crippled if Members States do not pay assessed contributions as required by Charter; projects General Fund deficit of $240 million by end of 1995.

* Secretary-General appoints Joe Sills as Director of United Nations Information Centre in Washington, D.C., with effect from 1 December.

* Security Council should adjust UNOMIL mandate to take into account developments in peace process and experience gained in past two years, Secretary-General says.

* Emergency Relief Coordinator says Liberia will need substantial international assistance if peace is to hold; United Nations to convene Conference on country tomorrow.

* Heads of State or government of Non-Aligned Movement call for strengthening of UNCTAD as United Nations focal point for treatment of development and related issues.

* Global agricultural trade has expanded greatly in past two decades, but gains have been uneven and protectionism continues to distort markets, FAO reports.

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While some Member States have responded to appeals regarding the critical financial position of the United Nations, the situation remains bleak, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the General Assembly dated 20 October, he said the General Fund, which financed regular budget activities, was expected to show a deficit of $240 million at the end of 1995. The prospects for additional receipts for the regular budget from major contributors remained uncertain.

Unpaid contributions to the peace-keeping budget totaled almost $2.3 billion, he pointed out. The unanticipated receipt of some contributions had allowed the United Nations to make some payments to troop-contributing countries. However, the Organization was still expected to owe those

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countries $1 billion by the end of the year. The problem was exacerbated by the need to borrow available peace-keeping funds for the regular budget.

"Unless Member States resolve to pay their assessed contributions to the United Nations in accordance with their obligations under the Charter," the Secretary-General concluded, "the Organization's capacity to serve Member States will be crippled and its continued viability will be threatened.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to appoint Joe Sills as Director of the United Nations Information Centre in Washington, D.C. In that capacity, he will be the leading representative of the United Nations Offices there. The appointment was announced today by the Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information, Samir Sanbar. Mr. Sills, who is currently the Spokesman of the Secretary-General, will take up his new duties on 1 December.

Mr. Sanbar said the Secretary-General's decision reflected the importance he attached to the Information Centre in the Host Country. Under the leadership of Mr. Sills, the Centre would contribute to a wider understanding of the United Nations role, closer partnership with the media in Washington, and a further strengthening of the Organization's relationship with the Host Country.

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The Secretary-General has recommended certain adjustments to the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) to take into account developments in the peace process and experience gained in the past two years. In a report to the Security Council dated 23 October, he said the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) would continue to play the lead role in the peace process, while the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) would retain the primary responsibility for assisting the Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG) in implementing the military provisions of the peace agreements.

Meanwhile, UNOMIL's main functions should be: to exercise good offices to support the efforts of ECOWAS and the LNTG to implement the peace agreements; to investigate alleged cease-fire violations; to monitor compliance with the other provisions of the peace agreements; to assist in the maintenance of assembly sites and in the demobilization of combatants; to support humanitarian assistance activities; to investigate and report on human rights violations and assist local human rights groups; and to observe and verify the election process.

UNOMIL would monitor implementation of the military provisions of the Abuja Agreement and deploy its military observers with an emphasis on the most

critical task of the peace process: disarmament and demobilization. Teams of United Nations military observers would co-deploy with ECOMOG troops at assembly sites to verify the disarming of combatants. In addition, three mobile teams would be co-located with ECOMOG brigade headquarters, while a fourth would be stationed in Monrovia. The teams would investigate reported violations of the cease-fire and arms embargo, as well as the disengagement of forces.

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Liberia must have substantial international assistance if the peace established by the Abuja Agreement is to hold, the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Peter Hansen, told correspondents at Headquarters today. He noted that the United Nations had appealed for $110 million to meet Liberia's "very burning, very acute" needs, and would hold a Conference on assistance to the country tomorrow. Mr. Hansen recently visited Liberia, as well as Sierra Leone and Afghanistan, in his capacity as United Nations Emergency Relief Coordinator.

The civil war in Liberia had claimed 150,000 lives and turned three-quarters of the population into refugees or displaced persons, Mr. Hansen said. No family had been left untouched by the humanitarian disaster, yet the international community had not mobilized to deal with it. Money was now needed to disarm and demobilize combatants and to begin reconstruction. In addition, ECOMOG needed funding to help keep the peace.

The situation in Sierra Leone was also disastrous, Mr. Hansen continued. There were at least 1.2 million internally displaced persons in the country. No significant agricultural activity was being carried out and there were reports of severe malnutrition, particularly among children. The United Nations had appealed for a modest $14 million for Sierra Leone, of which only 40 per cent had been raised. That response was "really pathetic" considering the country's enormous needs.

Afghanistan had once been at the centre of international attention but was now being ignored, Mr. Hansen went on to say. Meanwhile, the international community had never paid sufficient attention to the emergencies in Liberia and Sierra Leone. Appeals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda had been very successful, but the crises in the two West African countries were of similar magnitude. The international response would have to be increased very significantly if the challenge were to be faced, he concluded.

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Heads of State or government of the Non-Aligned Movement have called for a strengthening of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). In a declaration adopted at thir Summit Meeting in Cartagena, Colombia, last week, they reaffirmed their support "for the mandate of UNCTAD

as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues including trade, commodities, finance, investment, external debt, services, technology and environment."

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Global trade in agricultural products has expanded considerably in the past two decades, but the gains have been extremely uneven and markets have been plagued by intervention and protection, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). In a report entitled "The State of Food and Agriculture 1995", the FAO said the Uruguay Round Agreement had been a momentous event for agricultural trade. However, "protectionism in old and new forms" was likely to remain high unless further reductions were negotiated.

The report urged that regional trading arrangements open their markets to third countries to promote a more liberal global trade environment. However, it cautioned that if the environment were to be protected, governments should have appropriate policies to modify the behaviour of producers, consumers and markets. Without such policies, resource allocation could conflict with the objective of sustainable development.

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TED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Secretary-General tells Conference on Liberia United Nations is committed to early implementation of Abuja Agreement; calls for rapid and important action to support peace.

* DPI has demonstrated its ability to do more while spending less, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information tells Special Political and Decolonization Committee.

* General Assembly commemorates tenth anniversary of International Youth Year; hears statements by youth representatives from several countries.

* As Disarmament and International Security Committee observes Disarmament Week, General Assembly President says support for United Nations must be translated into practical action.

* Local civilian vehicles enter Sarajevo through Serb-held territory for first time since Bosnian war began; Co-Chairman of ICFY has several meetings on Eastern Slavonia.

* Human Rights Committee discusses possibility of requesting States to submit reports on specific human rights situations when necessary.

* DPI to open annual Inter-Agency Information Fair at Headquarters on Monday; 30 United Nations agencies, programmes and offices to participate.

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The United Nations is committed to the early implementation of the Abuja Peace Agreement, but the decision to make peace rests, ultimately, with those who have made the war, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In an opening address to the Conference on Assistance to Liberia, he said a lasting peace required strong and stable foundations. Comprehensive national political leadership was needed. Reconciliation was the cornerstone of peace, and must be built upon with care and compassion.

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Liberia had long been a forgotten emergency, as conflicts elsewhere had dominated international attention, the Secretary-General continued. The costs of peace-keeping in the former Yugoslavia for five days equalled the entire budget of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for a year. "This distortion in the use of resources demands correction. Today offers an opportunity."

The most immediate need was humanitarian assistance, he said. With peace, previously inaccessible populations could be reached. Essential services must be provided or rehabilitated. The second need was disarmament and demobilization. Third, recovery and rehabilitation required rapid action. The international community must play a major role, with support from financial institutions. Fourth, the capability of the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Observer Group (ECOMOG) must be assured. Even a relatively small investment would bring significant benefit not only to Liberia but to the region and to Africa as a whole.

"I trust your meeting this morning will reflect a solid commitment to support the peace process in Liberia," the Secretary-General concluded. "I also look forward to the outcome of the technical discussions which you will hold this afternoon. It is my sincere hope that your exchange of information and ideas will lead to rapid and important action to support peace in Liberia."

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Today's global problems are a "testament to why the voice of the United Nations must be heard more clearly and loudly than ever before", according to Samir Sanbar, Assistant Secretary-General for Public Information. He made that comment to the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) yesterday as it began its consideration of questions relating to information.

Many delegations had expressed concern that public information activities could be severely hampered by the United Nations financial crisis at a time when they should be redoubled, Mr. Sanbar said. While public interest in the Organization was at an all-time high, its message had to compete for attention as never before. Ways had to be found to sharpen the focus on current issues and reach the widest possible audience.

The Department of Public Information (DPI) had risen to meet the challenge head-on and had demonstrated its ability to do more while spending less, he continued. New budget proposals for 1996-1997 presented a negative growth rate of 3.2 per cent, compared to the 1994-1995 budget. Those proposals had been made possible by the better use of technology, close cooperation with other parts of the United Nations system, and management initiatives that streamlined the Department.

A major element of DPI's overall strategy was the establishment of strong partnerships with the media, he went on to say. A public information culture could be a crucial asset in gaining support for the Organization, and should be cultivated to create deeper understanding of the media's role as allies who needed information to tell the facts. The Department aimed to ensure that news headlines did not exclusively focus on the flashpoints of conflict at the expense of efforts in development, social justice and democratization.

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The General Assembly has been commemorating the tenth anniversary of the International Youth Year. Fifteen speakers, including seven youth representatives, addressed the Assembly yesterday, focusing on the vulnerability of youth to poverty, wars and unemployment.

When half of the young population lived beneath the poverty line, as in Panama, it was not surprising that the young vacillated between hope and despair, the youth representative from that country said. Referring to the migration of youth from rural to urban areas, the representative of Indonesia warned that "many young people awake to discover that development may in fact pass them over, leaving behind a disillusioned and alienated generation".

The Presidential Adviser on Youth Affairs of the Philippines called for greater attention to the plight of young migrant workers, who were particularly vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. The Representative of the Republic of Korea told the Assembly that social development efforts in developing countries must incorporate the interest of the young, as they were the main victims of poverty and conflict.

* * *

The First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) today held a special meeting in observance of Disarmament Week. General Assembly President Diogo Freitas do Amaral (Portugal) said that a theme echoing through the recent fiftieth anniversary celebrations had been the irreplaceability of the United Nations. That support should now be translated into initiatives and practical actions in all domains of the Organization's endeavour, including disarmament.

Yesterday, the observer of the International Committee of the Red Cross told the Committee that the recent adoption of a Protocol banning the use or transfer of blinding laser weapons had been "a triumph of civilization over barbarity." That action was taken at the Review Conference of States Parties to the 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Although the Conference had failed to agree on the issue of land-mines, its adoption of Protocol IV was a major achievement -- it was the first time since 1868 that a weapon had been prohibited before its use on the battlefield.

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Local civilian vehicles today entered Sarajevo through Serb-held territory for the first time since the war began in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a United Nations spokesman. A convoy of four trucks carrying flour and cement were escorted into the city by French peace-keepers. Opening the Bosnian capital and the eastern enclave of Gorazde to civilian traffic was an important part of the cease-fire agreement signed by the Bosnian parties earlier this month.

Meanwhile, the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg, met yesterday with representatives of France, the United Kingdom, Germany and Spain in Paris to review the overall situation in Eastern Slavonia. Mr. Stoltenberg met with the President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), Slobodan Milosevic, in Belgrade today. He was due to meet with Serb representatives in Erdut tomorrow.

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The Human Rights Committee this week discussed the possibility of taking special decisions to request a State party to submit a brief report whenever the Committee deemed it necessary. The Committee was of the view that in the intervals between the submission of periodic reports, specific situations could arise in a particular State which needed close examination.

As the Committee focused on its methods of work, it also suggested the possibility of considering the situation of human rights in States parties which were in serious default of their obligations under article 40 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. That suggestion was aimed at States parties with initial or periodic reports overdue for more than five years or with more than one report overdue.

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The annual Inter-Agency Information Fair, organized by the Department of Public Information (DPI), will open in the General Assembly Public Lobby on Monday. The five-day Fair is intended to acquaint the public and those who visit Headquarters with the scope of activities undertaken by the United Nations system. It will highlight the work of 30 United Nations agencies, programmes and offices.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Secretary-General expresses condolences to Government and people of Azerbaijan after subway accident leaves 286 dead.
- Human rights situation in Haiti continues to improve despite sporadic reports of ill treatment of detainees and abuse of power by State agents, Secretary-General says.
- Expansion of UNOMIL for six months will cost $28 million, including $10 million in non-recurrent costs, Secretary-General reports.
- FAO Conference adopts $650 million Programme of Work and Budget for 1996-1997 without opposition.
- Co-Chairman of ICFY has meetings with Croatian Serb authorities and Croatian Government officials in effort to resolve situation in Eastern Slavonia.
- Administrative and Budgetary Committee concludes debate on 1996-1997 budget and discussions on medium-term plan and pattern of conferences.
- Special Political and Decolonization Committee approves draft resolution on United Nations public information activities.
- Fourteen States pledge $280,000 for United Nations disarmament information trust funds.
- Major-General Gian Santillo of Italy named as new Force Commander of UNIKOM.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today expressed his condolences to the Government and people of Azerbaijan after a subway accident in Baku on Saturday left 286 people dead and 269 injured.

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The human rights situation in Haiti continued to improve in recent months and the number of rights violations remained low, according to the Secretary-General. In a report to the General Assembly dated 12 October, he said fundamental freedoms were enjoyed by all sections of society, including by opponents of the President and the Government. Efforts to improve the justice and penal systems had proceeded apace, as had the deployment of the new Haitian National Police (HNP). Acts of summary "justice" meted out by the population to individuals caught while committing crimes, though still prevalent, had decreased considerably.

Nevertheless, the Secretary-General continued, there had been sporadic reports of ill treatment of detainees and of abuse of power by State agents. The weakness of the judiciary and the often arbitrary nature of decisions and actions continued to be a source of concern in the area of respect for legal and constitutional guarantees. Since January, the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) had examined some 20 killings that might have had a political context. The victims appeared to have been targeted for assassination, rather than for robbery.

The Secretary-General said he would formulate a recommendation for an extension of MICIVIH's mandate beyond 7 February 1996 if requested by the Haitian Government. He would also recommend that the Mission's terms of reference be adjusted to place greater emphasis on technical cooperation with the Government in the area of institution-building, in particular in the judicial and penal fields, and on the promotion and protection of human rights. The size and composition of MICIVIH's staff would be reassessed in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Organization of American States (OAS) to reflect the new emphasis of its work.

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The expansion of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for a six-month period will cost $27.6 million, including $10.3 million in non-recurrent costs, according to the Secretary-General. In an addendum to his recent report on the Mission, he said the current cost of the expansion was $2.9 million per month, in addition to the current maintenance cost of $1.4 million. Accordingly, the total cost for maintaining UNOMIL for six months would amount to $36 million.

The cost estimate for the expansion of the Mission provided for an increase in the current budgeted strength of 90 military observers, 51 international staff and 103 United Nations Volunteers, the Secretary-General noted. Most of the additional civilian staffing was for the disarmament and demobilization programme.

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In a related development, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs described Friday's Conference on Assistance to Liberia as an encouraging first step in building international support for the Liberian peace process. Several governments and the European Union said they would make substantial resources available for humanitarian assistance, disarmament and demobilization, the reintegration of former combatants, and the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Observer Group (ECOMOG).

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The governing Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) has adopted a $650 million Programme of Work and Budget for the biennium 1996-1997. It took that action in Rome on Friday, by adopting an unopposed resolution. Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States abstained from voting. The budget for 1994-1995 was $673 million.

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The Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg, and the United States Ambassador to Croatia, Peter Galbraith, had meetings with the Croatian Serb authorities in Eastern Slavonia on Saturday, and with Croatian Government officials on Sunday. A United Nations spokesman said they discussed proposals for a resolution of the situation in Eastern Slavonia within the framework of the 11 guiding principles agreed to by the parties earlier this month.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has approved a draft resolution by which the General Assembly would authorize the Secretary-General to begin preparing and submit to its next session the proposed medium-term plan for the period after 1997. The Committee took that action as it concluded its general discussion on the plan and on the pattern of conferences. It also concluded its debate on the proposed 1996-1997 budget.

According to the draft resolution, the Secretary-General would base his proposals on recommendations from the thirty-fourth session of the Committee for Programme and Coordination (CPC) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ). He would also consider the views expressed in the Fifth Committee.

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The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) has approved a draft resolution by which the Secretary-General would be asked to ensure the involvement of the Department of Public Information (DPI) at the planning stage of future peace-keeping and other field missions. The draft on "United Nations public information policies and activities" would have the General

Assembly consolidate the role of the Committee on Information as its main body mandated to make resolutions relating to the DPI's work.

By the terms of a second draft on "information in service of humanity", States and specialized agencies would be urged to reaffirm their commitment to the principles of the Charter and the principles of freedom of the press and information. States and organizations would also be urged to cooperate to reduce disparities in information flows by increasing assistance for the development of communications infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries.

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Fourteen countries pledged almost $280,000 for disarmament trust funds at the thirteenth Pledging Conference for the United Nations Disarmament Information Programme on Friday. Three other countries indicated their intention to pledge at a later date.

Of the total, $163,000 was pledged to the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research; $41,000 to the trust fund of the Disarmament Information Programme; and $76,000 to the trust fund for the United Nations Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament.

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The Secretary-General has decided to appoint Major-General Gian Giuseppe Santillo of Italy as Force Commander of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM). Major-General Santillo will take up his functions on 1 December, succeeding Major-General Krishna Thapa.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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31 October 1995

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council asks United Nations Secretariat to prepare report for it on fate of missing persons from Srebrenica, Zepa and Banja Luka.

* On eve of departure from Zagreb, Special Representative Akashi reiterates there can be no military solution to conflict in former Yugoslavia.

* General Assembly extends ONUSAL mandate until 30 April 1996; calls on Member States to continue to assist Government and people of El Salvador.

* Administrative and Budgetary Committee recommends General Assembly authorize $21.7 million for UNMIH for November.

* MINUGUA expresses concern about general human rights situation in Guatemala, saying State has shirked obligation to guarantee right to life.

* New environmentalism rejects heavy-handed policies in most industrial countries, World Bank tells Economic and Financial Committee.

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The Security Council has asked the United Nations Secretariat to prepare a report for it on the fate of missing persons from Srebrenica, Zepa and Banja Luka, a spokesman for the Organization said today. The Council discussed the matter yesterday, in response to media reports on events that took place in the three towns earlier this year. It also discussed the role of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia in relation to those events, including the issues of jurisdiction and punishment.

The Council was briefed by Under-Secretary-General Chinmaya Gharekhan, the spokesman noted. He pointed out that the United Nations had been denied access to the Bosnian towns and that it was impossible for the Organization to provide the kind of information the Council wanted without such access.

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For information media—not an official record

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi today reiterated that there could never be a military solution to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, only a negotiated political solution. In a statement issued on the eve of his departure from the region, Mr. Akashi said peace could only be achieved through mutual confidence and political compromise. Meanwhile, the United Nations would do all it could to facilitate the peace process and to alleviate the human suffering caused by the war.

Mr. Akashi expressed satisfaction regarding certain accomplishments of the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia. More than one million tons of humanitarian assistance had been delivered, essential utilities had been restored, and life for many people had improved following the reduction in fighting in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Those factors had been vital in creating the conditions necessary for the current peace initiative to succeed.

United Nations efforts in the region should be evaluated in the context of Security Council resolutions and the resources provided to fulfil them. Some of those mandates had proved impossible to fulfil. Efforts in Croatia and Bosnia had been frustrated by insufficient resources and the inherent limits of peace-keeping operations, which required the consent of the parties and impartiality. However, lives had been saved by humanitarian aid and stabilizing conditions on the ground. The preventive deployment in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was a shining example of what could be accomplished given implementable mandates and adequate resources.

The international community had looked for new ways to implement resolutions aimed at resolving the conflict, he went on to say. The United Nations had embarked on an unprecedented relationship with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and had pushed the limits of classical peace-keeping. A valuable lesson from that experience was that under certain conditions, there was a role for a more determined use of military means. However, the use of force was not a panacea for all problems, especially for a mission with lightly-armed peace-keepers who were widely dispersed.

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The General Assembly today extended the mandate of the Mission of the United Nations in El Salvador (MINUSAL) until 30 April 1996, with a gradual reduction of its strength and cost in a manner compatible with the efficient performance of its functions. It took that action by a resolution adopted without a vote.

The Assembly called on Member States and international institutions to continue to provide assistance to the Government and people of El Salvador and to lend support to the Mission's efforts. It recognized the political

commitment of the parties to the Chapultepec peace agreements to continue to work together for their implementation. The Assembly also welcomed the continued commitment of the Government and people of El Salvador to consolidating the peace.

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The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) today approved a draft decision that would have the General Assembly authorize and assess $21.7 million gross ($21.4 million net) for the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) for the period 1 to 30 November. The Assembly would assess an additional $42.4 million for the period 1 August to 31 October. That would be in addition to the $21.2 million previously assessed.

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The United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) has expressed concern about the general human rights situation in the country. In a report issued today, it said that certain positive steps and attitudes had been maintained, but that things had taken a turn for the worse in other respects.

The right to life was still the most seriously affected, the report concluded. It was so precarious because the State had shirked its obligation to provide guarantees and its institutions did not exercise their solemn duty to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish crime. Meanwhile, the URNG was still not living up to its commitments under the Comprehensive Agreements on Human Rights, particularly the commitment to stop inflicting suffering on the civilian population.

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A new environmentalism is being implemented around the world that rejects the heavy-handed, command and control policies traditional in most industrial countries, a World Bank representative told the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) today. He said the new approach was pro-development and pro-people and recognized that real solutions would be found as implemented at the local level.

Addressing the implementation of commitments adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), the representative of India expressed regret that no significant steps had been taken to change unsustainable consumption and production patterns in developed countries.

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UNITED NATIONS

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31 October 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Financial crisis is affecting United Nations operational activities for development, Secretary-General tells Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

* United States cannot unilaterally reduce its contributions to peace-keeping operations, New Zealand tells Administrative and Budgetary Committee.

* Indefinite extension of NPT represents collective commitment to exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy and renunciation of nuclear weapons, IAEA Director General says.

* Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Croatia begin peace talks in Dayton, Ohio.

* United Nations begins withdrawing 6,000 peace-keepers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as recommended by Force Commander.

* Yasushi Akashi to assume post of Special Adviser to Secretary-General on 10 November.

* Aggression should be within jurisdiction of proposed international criminal court, Greece tells Legal Committee.

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The financial crisis facing the United Nations is affecting operational activities for development, as well as regular budget, peace-keeping and humanitarian operations, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today. He told the United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities that development needs were growing in range and in complexity. At the same time, levels of development aid channeled through the United Nations system were declining.

The operational activities of the United Nations system for development were a vital component of multilateral development cooperation, the Secretary-General stressed. If sufficient resources were not made available to United Nations funds and programmes, their efficiency and effectiveness would be impaired and the larger profile of the system would be affected.

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For information media—not an official record

The importance of voluntary contributions went beyond the viability of operations in the field, he continued. It touched the very heart of United Nations development cooperation in its broadest dimensions. At a time when there was a growing perception that the Organization's profile in development should be highlighted, contributions to its funds and programmes assumed special importance.

"We face mounting challenges in development," the Secretary-General concluded. "Political will needs to be sustained. Development fatigue must be resisted. I ask you to look beyond narrow, short-term, domestic interest. Let us together look to the future, to peace and security in their broadest sense.

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The treaty obligations assumed by the United States on joining the United Nations are legally binding under international law, the representative of New Zealand told the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) yesterday. She said those obligations could not be nullified by the decision of a single Member State or its national legislature. She was responding to a statement by the United States on 18 October that it would pay no more than 25 per cent of the assessments for any peace-keeping operations.

If the United States chose not to meet its treaty obligations, its growing arrears must eventually be treated according to Article 19 of the Charter, the New Zealand representative went on to say. According to that Article, a Member State would lose its voting rights in the General Assembly if its arrears equalled or exceeded its contributions for the preceding two full years. The representative of China said New Zealand's statement reflected the views of all Members, except the United States.

Also yesterday, the African Group of States said the resources allocated to the section of the proposed 1996-1997 United Nations budget on Africa's critical economic situation, recovery and development should be increased. Speaking through Uganda, the African States said the Secretariat should allocate resources commensurate with the activities planned for continent.

An inflation-adjusted $43 million is proposed for the Department for Policy Coordination and $4 million for Africa's critical situation. For the development support and management services department, $28.5 million is proposed. While the budget proposes spending of $48.4 million for the information and policy analysis department, the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) recommends $48.2 million.

* * *

The indefinite extension of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the strengthening of the review process should be read as a collective

commitment to the exclusively peaceful use of nuclear energy and the renunciation of nuclear weapons, according to the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Hans Blix. He told the General Assembly today that the results of the NPT Review and Extension Conference also represented a commitment by non-nuclear-weapon States not to acquire such weapons and a commitment by weapon States to nuclear disarmament.

A comprehensive test-ban was already in force for the more than 170 non-nuclear-weapon States which had accepted comprehensive IAEA safeguards for all their nuclear activities, Mr. Blix continued. Those States were obliged not to use any nuclear material for explosions and the Agency verified that that obligation was respected. Entrusting the IAEA with responsibility for verifying a test-ban treaty would save resources by avoiding duplication and overlap and would permit rapid implementation.

* * *

President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, and President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia today began talks to end the Bosnian conflict in Dayton, Ohio. The question of Eastern Slavonia -- the last Serb-held area of Croatia -- was also to be addressed. United States mediator Richard Holbrooke recently warned that if the talks failed, Bosnia and Herzegovina would slip back into war.

* * *

The United Nations has begun withdrawing about 6,000 peace-keepers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, as recommended earlier this year by the Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith. The Force currently has a strength of just under 27,000 peace-keepers. That figure will be reduced to some 21,500 by mid-January, according to a United Nations spokesman.

* * *

The outgoing Special Representative for the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, will assume his new post of Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on 10 November, a United Nations spokesman said today. He is being replaced by Under-Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who will serve as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy to the former Yugoslavia and also to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

* * *

Aggression constitutes the epicentre of international criminality, the representative of Greece told the Sixth Committee (Legal) yesterday as it continued its consideration of a proposed international criminal court. Fifty years after Nuremberg and the recognition of aggression as a violation of

international law under the United Nations Charter, the court could not ignore that crime, she said. If the court were barred from exercising jurisdiction over aggression until the Security Council decided on the matter, it would be paralysed into inaction.

The representative of Germany said that if aggression were included in the court's jurisdiction, the Security Council would play an essential role. The Council should have the power to refer situations to the court. The representatives of Sweden and Lesotho urged that the court adjudicate only the most serious international crimes. They favoured the inclusion in the statute of a review mechanism whereby additional crimes could be added to the court's jurisdiction at a later date.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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2 November 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General, addressing business leaders at luncheon, appeals for help in resolving UN financial crisis.

* General Assembly reiterates call to States to refrain from promulgating and applying measures which affect sovereignty of other States and freedom of trade and navigation.

* General Assembly approves spending further $21.7 million for UN Mission to Haiti.

* World Bank official tells Economic and Financial Committee new environmentalism rejects 'heavy handed' policies in most industrialized countries.

* Representatives tell Legal Committee proposed International Court should have inherent criminal jurisdiction.

* Speakers in Administrative and Budgetary Committee urge provision of adequate resources for Regional Commissions.

* Independent World Commission on Culture and Development presents report to UNESCO.

* United Nations issues 1993 Energy Statistics Yearbook.

* * *

The future of peace-keeping rests upon the correction of the distortion between the demands placed on the United Nations and the resources provided it, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today. In a luncheon address to the Business Council for the United Nations co-sponsored by the Council and the Economist, he noted that there was not enough cash to pay for what the Organization had been told to do.

Serious reform was under way, said the Secretary-General. The Organization had cut expenses and streamlined operations. He pointed out that the impact of the financial crisis was being felt on the front lines of global problem-solving -- in a diminished capacity for peace-keeping, in less assistance for development, in less effective support for democratization and human rights. That was a crisis that threatened the very existence of the United Nations, the Secretary-General said.

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The Secretary-General went on to say that the financial crisis was a symptom of a deeper problem: that Member States did not regard the United Nations as a priority. He asked the business leaders to speak out in support of settling arrears, and of paying future contributions on time and in full. He appealed to them -- as persons of influence, as friends of the United Nations - to help resolve this crisis.

* * *

The General Assembly, has reiterated its call to all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures whose extraterritorial effects affect the sovereignty of other States as well as the freedom of trade and navigation. In a resolution adopted this morning on the need to end the United States economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, the Assembly once again urged States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible.

The Assembly acted by a vote of 117 in favour to 3 against (Israel, the United States and Uzbekistan), with 38 abstentions.

The representative of Cuba introduced the resolution and said that the attempts to submit the sovereignty of third states to the designs of the United States legislation and to subordinate international law had become more dangerous than ever.

The representative of the United States said his Government had indicated repeatedly over the past year that "it is not wedded to indefinite continuation of the embargo but is prepared to reduce its sanctions in carefully calibrated ways should there be significant political and economic reform in Cuba".

* * *

The General Assembly has authorized and assessed $21.7 million gross ($21.4 million net) for the United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) for the period 1 to 30 November. The action was taken by a resolution adopted without a vote yesterday, on the recommendation of the Fifth (Administrative and Budgetary) Committee. The Assembly also authorized an additional $42.4 million gross (41.7 million net) for the period 1 August to 31 October. That was in addition to the $21.2 million gross (20.8 million net) it had previously approved. The allocations for the periods 1 August to 30 November were made on an ad hoc basis.

* * *

The imperative of implementing the Rio agenda remained as urgent as ever, according to Andrew Steer, a representative of the World Bank. Speaking

to the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) he said, there was a new environmentalism taking place around the world and it rejected the traditional, heavy-handed, command and control policies of most of the industrialized countries.

The World Bank representative said the new approach was pro-development and pro-people and it recognized that the real solutions would be found as implemented in communities, farms, corporations and families -- away from government offices. He pointed out that implementing the new environmentalism required partnerships and government ministries should involve other departments at the national level.

* * *

The proposed International Criminal Court should be an independent institution with inherent jurisdiction over serious international crimes, the Sixth Committee (Legal), was told during ongoing discussion of the subject.

The discussions in the Committee had demonstrated a growing consensus to restrict the jurisdiction of the court to genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, said the representative of the United States, Jamison S. Borek. She disagreed with the notion that the scope of the court's jurisdiction be widened as proposed by some representatives.

Meanwhile, the representative of New Zealand, Felicity Wong, said it would be "shameful" if the permanent members of the Security Council were able to prevent the criminal court from dealing with a situation by claiming that the Council was already seized of the matter.

* * *

The budgetary resources proposed for the Regional Commissions should be retained or increased to enable them to carry out the tasks they had been asked to do, the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) was told. The Committee is reviewing the proposed 1996-1997 budget of the United Nations.

Representatives of many African countries called for more resources for the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), for whom $79.5 million was proposed. Delegates from Asian and Central and Eastern European nations said their Regional Commissions were doing very good work and should be strengthened. An allocation of $67.7 million has been proposed for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and $50.8 million was the proposed budgetary allocation for the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE).

The representative of the United States said the Commissions lacked unique and compelling missions and their activities often duplicated those of other international organizations. The Russian Federation said the

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administrative expenses of the missions should be reduced and the savings directed to substantive activities.

* * *

The notion of culture can no longer be dissociated from the socio-political and economic context of our time, said Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar, President of the independent World Commission on Culture and Development, established in 1992. The former United Nations Secretary-General today presented the (WCCD) report to UNESCO's 28th General Conference.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar stressed that the Commission was independent of the intergovernmental process and aimed to help generate deeper and broader debate around the important interaction between culture and development. He invited intellectuals, academics and others to debate the Commission's views and recommendations.

* * *

The Department for Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis (DESIPA) has just issued the 1993 Energy Statistics Yearbook. The thirty-seventh issue covers the period 1990 through 1993 and gives the energy statistics for 215 countries and areas in the world. The data includes energy production, trade and consumption of solid, liquid and gaseous fuels and electricity. The publication is being made available from the Sales Section of the United Nations in New York and Geneva, and major book stores throughout the world.

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UNITED NATIONS

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F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* $2.1 billion pledged at United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities.

* Secretary-General decides to send election observers to Algeria.

* Secretary-General expresses deep concern at reports of massive displacement of civilians in Sri Lanka.

* General Assembly requests Secretary-General to ensure personnel recruited by Organization have command of at least one working language.

* Social Committee urges continuation of support to Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination.

* Economic Committee reviews scope of planned Assembly Special Session on Sustainable Development in 1997.

* Economic and Social Council recommends General Assembly approve World Action Programme for Youth to Year 2000.

* Situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina remains calm and stable.

* Cuts in programmes of Food and Agriculture Organization are unavoidable because of reduced budget, FAO Director-General says.

* High-Level Environmental Conference adopts global action programme against pollution of marine environment.

* * *

More than $2.1 billion in real or anticipated contributions have been pledged for development activities of the United Nations system. A total of 66 countries and observers announced pledges for the Organization's funds and programmes during the 1995 United Nations Pledging Conference for Development Activities, which concluded yesterday.

The United Nations Development Programme, UNDP received pledges of $950 million while the United Nations Children's Fund, UNICEF was pledged approximately $1 billion. Among other United Nations Funds and Programmes receiving pledges were: United Nations Population Fund, UNFPA which was

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pledged $97.6 million; $30 million for the United Nations Capital Development Fund; $13 million for the United Nations Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM; and $6 million for the United Nations Volunteers Programme. The United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP received pledges of $1.9 million.

The Administrator of UNDP, James Gustave Speth, in a closing statement to the Conference, said to fulfil its mandate, UNDP would require $3.3 billion for its three-year programming period, beginning in 1997. It could not meet that target if the contributions for 1997 did not reach a minimum of $1 billion. The 1996 contributions, he said, were slightly below the 1995 level.

Several other heads of agencies expressed similar concern about diminishing levels of contributions and said implementation of their respective mandates required financial resources that were adequate and predictable.

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Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali has decided to send United Nations observers to Algeria to follow the final campaign and polling phases in that country. This follows a request from the Government of Algeria. United Nations representatives will observe the presidential elections scheduled for the 16th of November.

The Secretary-General has appointed Ambassador Hussein El-Kamel to head the United Nations observer mission which is to arrive in Algeria on Monday.

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The Secretary-General has expressed deep concern about the reports of the massive displacement of the civilian population in northern Sri Lanka.

In a statement, the spokesman for the Secretary-General said was evident that humanitarian assistance on a significant scale would be essential to minimize suffering. The Secretary-General called on all concerned to facilitate relief assistance to the affected population by humanitarian organizations. He had instructed the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to follow the situation closely and to maintain contact with the relevant humanitarian organizations and the Sri Lankan authorities.

* * *

The General Assembly yesterday requested the Secretary-General to ensure that personnel recruited by the Organization would have command of at least one of the United Nations working languages.

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In a resolution adopted by a vote of 100 in favour to 35 against, with 29 abstentions, the Assembly stressed the need to ensure the availability of necessary resources to guarantee proper and timely translation of documents into the official and working languages. The Secretary-General was also requested to ensure that the use of another of the six official languages of the Secretariat was encouraged particularly in considering promotions and incremental steps.

* * *

The General Assembly would urge all States and specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system to continue to support the Palestinian people in their quest for self-determination, under the terms of a draft resolution approved by the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural). The draft was approved by a recorded voted of 134 in favour to 2 against (United States and Israel), with 14 abstentions.

The representative of Israel said the draft intended to predetermine the outcome of the permanent status talks and thus contradicted the obligations undertaken by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in the Declaration of Principles it had signed with Israel.

According to the observer of Palestine, however, approval of the resolution showed support of the United Nations for the struggle of the Palestinian people to recover their inalienable rights.

* * *

The achievement of sustainable development should not be used to hinder development efforts of countries of the South, representatives told the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) yesterday. A North-South partnership was the best way to cope with environmental problems and Africa, in particular, should be given priority in the mobilization of resources. The Committee was reviewing the scope of the planned special session of the General Assembly on sustainable development.

The representative of the United States stressed the need for the proposed session to be forward-looking focussing on integrated implementation of the interrelated results of recent major United nations conferences covering the issue of sustainable development.

Most representatives noted that while the United Nations Environment Programme had been strengthened, only responsible, serious participation of Member States, coupled with their commitment to its financing, will enable it to fulfil its role in dealing with the problems.

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The Economic and Social Council has recommended that the General Assembly adopt a draft world programme of action for youth to the year 2000. The Council's decision came after three years of work on the elaboration of the draft programme.

Aimed at improving the situation of young people, the draft programme provides a policy framework and guidelines for national action and international support. Areas identified for action, are: education, employment, hunger and poverty, health, environment, drug abuse, juvenile delinquency, leisure-time activities, girls and young women, and the full and effective participation of youth in the life of society and decision-making.

* * *

The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina is reported to be calm and stable, according to a United Nations spokesman. UN Radio in the former Yugoslavia reports that the United Nations would be sending military observers to Bosnian Serb posts, to crucial villages and towns and other important locations throughout Bosnian Serb held territory. They would be supervising the situation on the ground and compliance with the cease fire agreement. According to the report, the situation had changed so much for the better in the last few months that United Nations officials no longer feared a repeat of the hostage taking incidents from earlier this year.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed grave concern over the human tragedy that followed the fall of the United Nations safe area of Srebrenica as well as the more recent reported incidents in the Banja Luka area.

In a statement, High Commissioner Jose Ayala Lasso said he was pursuing his efforts to ensure access of the human rights field staff to Serb-held areas in both regions. This access would allow human rights field officers to conduct direct investigations in order to clarify the fate of all the persons unaccounted for in both areas. The High Commissioner for Human Rights reiterated the urgent need for immediate and full access to these areas and instructed his Personal Representative in Zagreb to pursue his contacts with the Authorities in Pale in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to obtain immediate access to the areas.

* * *

Cuts in the programmes of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) would be unavoidable in the face of a reduced budget passed by its governing Council. FAO Director-General Jacques Diouf however, pledged that the fight against hunger and malnutrition would move ahead unabated. He proposed to embark on judicious cuts and strategic streamlining which, he said, would constitute reforms that would leave FAO's work unimpaired.

The FAO Director-General said the $23 million reduction in the 1996-97 budget as compared to the current budget presented great challenges at a time when 80 million people suffered from chronic malnutrition in the developing world and demanded on FAO's services were increasing.

The Director-General's remarks came after the conclusion of FAO's governing Conference of Agriculture Ministers and senior officials from the Organizations membership, capping events marking FAO's 50th anniversary. For 1996-97, the Director-General had submitted a Programme of Work and Budget of almost $700 million saying that was the equivalent of the amount spent on dog and cat food for six days in nine developed countries.

The Conference passed a unanimous resolution to hold a World Food Summit in Rome in November 1996. The low-budget, high-impact Summit aims to build international consensus and solidarity for a united effort to ensure food for all and raise awareness of food and agriculture issues at the highest political levels.

* * *

Representatives of over 100 governments have stressed the need for improved coordination and enhanced partnerships at the national, regional and international levels. In a Declaration adopted at a high-level conference in Washington, D.C. they called for sustained and effective action to deal with all land-based impacts upon marine environment.

The Declaration aims to protect and preserve the fragile ecosystem for present and future generations. The Conference, organized by the UN Environment Programme UNEP also formally adopted a Global Programme of Action, described by United States Vice-President Al Gore as the first programme "that will lead to more sustainable interaction between mankind and the world's oceans".

The UNEP Governing Council last may identified 12 specific pollutants for a speedy assessment regarding their chemistry and toxicology, their sources and deposition on a global scale, the benefits and risks relevant to their production and use, particularly on developing countries.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Yitzhak Rabin knew war and fought for peace and reconciliation, Secretary-General says in tribute to slain Prime Minister of Israel.

* General Assembly eulogizes Israel's assassinated Prime Minister.

* Security Council calls on Tajik parties to begin as matter of urgency, the continual round of talks with aim of concluding general agreement.

* International Commission of Inquiry will investigate reports of military training and arms transfer to Rwanda.

* International Task Force investigates mysterious epidemic in Nicaragua.

* UNEP and Smithsonian Institution join forces to fight for the environment.

* Economic and Financial Committee recommends General Assembly urge creditor countries implement debt strategies that lead to a durable solution.

* Representatives tell Legal Committee membership of Security Council is key factor in plan for World Criminal Court.

* Special Political and Decolonization Committee recommends General Assembly reaffirm that remaining 12 Non-Governing Territories ultimately determine own political status.

* UNESCO Director-General stresses important role of education in society, as General Conference approves Organization's programme and budget.

* Kofi Annan, Special Envoy to the Former Yugoslavia and NATO, takes up post.

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Yitzak Rabin knew war and fought tirelessly for peace and reconciliation so that "our children, and our children's children will no longer experience the painful cost of war", Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said this morning in Jerusalem, at the funeral of assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Rabin.

That goal, said Mr. Boutros-Ghali, should be our goal. It was the goal of the United Nations.

Earlier, on Saturday, the Secretary-General expressed profound shock and sadness on hearing of the assassination of Prime Minister Rabin. In a statement, he condemned the outrageous act of terror saying it had struck down one of the greatest leaders in Israel's history.

The Secretary-General paid tribute to the late Prime Minister's wisdom and vision for his unswerving commitment to his country, and recognition of the need for Israelis and Arabs alike to put behind the hostility and bloodshed - personal characteristics which, the Secretary-General said, led to the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan and the agreement between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Prime Minister Rabin, would "forever be remembered for his courageous leadership", the Secretary-General concluded.

* * *

The General Assembly this morning paid tribute to assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Representatives of the various geographical groups at the United Nations expressed sadness and condemned the terrorist act. However, they all called for the peace process to continue.

General Assembly President Diogo Freitas do Amaral said Mr. Rabin had chosen to lead his people down the path towards lasting peace in the Middle East and for this he had made the ultimate sacrifice. It was only two weeks ago that the reaffirmation of Mr. Rabin to the cause of peace resonated in this very chamber, he said. The Assembly President said it was our fervent hope that Yitzhak Rabin's life would not have been sacrificed in vain and that the international community and peoples of the world would be inspired by Mr. Rabin to abandon war and violence and to embrace peace.

Responding to condolences from the regional groups, the Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel, Ambassador David Peleg said the assassin's bullet that killed the prime minister was an attempt to stop the courageous march towards peace for all the people of the Middle East. The Government of Israel was fully committed to continue in its efforts towards reaching a comprehensive and lasting peace with all of its neighbours. "An assassin's

bullet will not halt our efforts to achieve what Prime Minister Rabin had so boldly set out to accomplish," he said.

* * *

The Security Council has called upon the Tajik parties to begin as a matter of urgency, the continual round of talks with the aim of concluding a general agreement. This would be in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol on the fundamental principles for establishing peace and national accord in Tajikistan signed by the President of Tajikistan and the leader of the Tajik opposition this past August.

In a presidential statement, the Council expressed the hope that the Secretary-General's Special Envoy would be able to resume promptly his efforts with regard to the preparation of the forthcoming round of talks. The Council also welcomed the planned convening of the continual round of Inter-Tajik talks in Ashgabad.

Council President for the month of November, Ambassador Salim Mohammed Al-Khussaiby of Oman, on behalf of the Council urged the Tajik parties to comply strictly with the obligations assumed under the agreement on a temporary ceasefire and the cessation of other hostile acts on the Tajik-Afghan border and within the country, signed in Teheran on 17 September 1994. The Council expressed the hope that the convening of the talks would contribute to a lessening of tensions along the Tajik-Afghan border and inside Tajikistan.

* * *

The International Commission of Inquiry to investigate reports of military training and arms transfer to former Rwandese government forces will visit Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zaire in pursuit of its mandate.

The Commission would: collect information and investigate reports relating to the allegations as well as underlying motives; identify those involved and recommend measures to end such illegal activities, which are in violation of relevant Security Council resolutions.

The Security Council had called on all states to render all necessary cooperation to the Commission, which was scheduled to arrive in Rwanda today.

Subsequent to its investigation, the International Commission would submit an interim report to the Secretary-General within three months and a final report as soon as possible thereafter.

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The World Health Organization (WHO) through its Regional Office for the Americas (AMRO/PAHO) together with an international team of epidemiologists from Cuba and the United States, has been working in Nicaragua to identify an unknown disease that has struck more than 1,000 people and led to 15 deaths.

The experts were conducting epidemiological investigations in the Achuapa region, about 100 kilometres north-west of Managua, where the first cases of the outbreak were reported. There was no confirmation of reports that the disease had spread to Honduras and the WHO did not consider that travel restrictions to Nicaragua were necessary.

* * *

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Smithsonian Institution have signed an agreement to establish formal links between their programmes in fields such as tropical forestry, biological diversity, climate change, marine and fresh water resources, dryland management, environmental assessment and data networking, data-base development and public and technical information awareness.

The Smithsonian Institution would provide UNEP with scientific input for its Commission on Sustainable Development, and one of its senior officials would become the senior scientific advisor to the Executive Director of UNEP. The agreement also called for joint programmes to increase public awareness on the status of the ecosystems and their management.

* * *

The General Assembly would urge creditor countries, multilateral institutions and commercial banks to ensure that the debt strategy was fully taken into account in the implementation of measures towards a durable solution to the external debt problem of developing countries, under the terms of one of two draft resolutions approved by the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) on Friday. The draft was sponsored by the "Group of 77" developing countries and China and by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

The draft would also have the Assembly stress the need of encouraging private flows to developing countries while reducing the systemic risk of volatility. It would urge developing countries to phase out subsidies for uncompetitive industries, particularly agriculture, and dismantle protectionist barriers targeted at developing countries.

* * *

The Sixth Committee (Legal) has been continuing deliberations on the establishment of an International Criminal Court. Representatives said that

the relationship between the proposed criminal court and the Security Council would be a key factor in the establishment of the Court.

The representative of Iran said that while the Charter of the United Nations had entrusted the Security Council with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, that should not be allowed to hinder the functioning of the court.

The representative of India suggested deleting reference to the Security Council from the court's draft statute. "The court should not be engaged in any case if the same is already under consideration of the Council", he said.

* * *

The General Assembly would reaffirm that the people in the remaining 12 Non-Self-Governing Territories must ultimately determine freely their political status, according to a draft resolution approved by the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) on Friday. The draft was approved, as a whole, by a vote of 124 in favour to 4 against (Georgia, Israel, United Kingdom and United States), with 6 abstentions (Argentina, Belgium, France, Haiti, Morocco and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

The draft also called for environmental protection measures, measures to combat drug trafficking and money laundering and the facilitation of the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions.

The 12 Territories covered were American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands.

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Delegates to the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) have approved the Organization's 1996-1997 programme and budget and given their support for the Medium-Term Strategy. The Strategy called for intensified activity in the fields of basic education, lifelong learning and literacy.

UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor said that education, in its broadest sense, was the thread that wove together the strands at the centre of the Organization's mission: to promote a culture of peace that embraces justice, democracy and tolerance. Therefore, he said, education was "the priority of priorities."

UNESCO Deputy Director-General Adnan Badran presented the UNESCO environment and four science prizes to recognize significant contributions in

computer programming, microbiology, physical chemistry, the popularization of science and environmental conservation.

Xuan Wang, a chinese computer scientist credited with revolutionizing his country's publishing and newspaper industry, received the 1995 UNESCO Science Prize.

The 1995 Carlos Finlay Prize for Microbiology went to French biologist Pascale Cossart and Belgian biochemist Jan Balzarini. Pascale Cossart leads the bacterial and cellular interaction unit at the Pasteur Institute in Paris, France. Jan Balzarini is a professor in the laboratory of virology and chemotherapy at the Rega Institute for Medical Research of Katholieke University in Leuven, Belgium. He is a recognized leader in cancer and AIDS research.

The 1995 Kalinga Prize for the Popularization of Science was awarded to Mexican astrophysicist Julieta Norma Fierro Gossman, a researcher at the National University of Mexico and a noted scholar on galaxies, planetary nebulae, asteroids and comets.

The Javed Husain Young Scientists Prize for 1995 was awarded to Mexican chemist Maria Lopez Goeme, described by the director of University of Mexico's Institute of Physics, as "a world leader in Sol-Gel catalysis".

The Lake Malawi National Park in Malawi received the US$200,000 Sultan Qaboos Prize for 1995 for Preservation of the Environment. A UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1984, Lake Malawi is widely praised as a model for ecotourism.

* * *

The United Nations had been doing very serious work and during the last few years the objective had been to try and contain the situation in the former Yugoslavia and to provide an opportunity for the diplomatic process to go forward, said Kofi Annan, the newly appointed Special Representative of Secretary-General to the Former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Annan who is also the special representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, NATO, was speaking to correspondents on his arrival at Zagreb to take up his assignment. He had already held meetings in London, Paris, Moscow and NATO headquarters in Brussels. He was expected to hold consultations this week with leaders in the region after their return from peace talks in the United States.

Mr. Kofi Annan takes over from Mr. Yasushi Akashi, who has been the Special Representative for almost two years. Before taking up his new duties, Mr. Annan had been Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations at United Nations Headquarters in New York.

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UNITED NATIONS

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- General Assembly hears expression of support from representatives for Olympic Truce during forthcoming Games.
- Security Council and General Assembly to hold concurrent meetings to elect judge in International Court of Justice on 28 February 1996.
- DPI was 'Flagship of Departments' and a model operation and should receive needed resources, representatives tell Administrative and Budgetary Committee.
- Ceasefire in Bosnia and Herzegovina holding well, UNPROFOR says.
- International cooperation in space technology could contribute substantially to economic and social development, Chairman of Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space says.
- Land mines continue to kill and maim long after conflict was over, Disarmament and International Security Committee is told).
- Legal Committee recommends General Assembly amend Charter regarding "enemy State clauses".

* * *

In the General Assembly, wide support was expressed for honouring the "Olympic truce" during the forthcoming Olympic Games, as speakers stressed the importance of sport and the Olympic ideal in building a better world.

The Assembly has been considering a draft on the Olympic Ideal which would call on Member States to reaffirm the observance of an Olympic truce during the 1996 Olympics to be held in the United States.

"We must support the efforts of our national Olympic committees to institute strong anti-doping measures, including unannounced testing," said the representative of Canada and called upon Member States to reinforce their mutual cooperation in international anti-doping efforts.

The representative of Greece said the philosophical nucleus of the ancient Greek spirit in the world athletic movement was being superseded by extreme commercialization that turned fans into hooligans, athletes into ruthless professionals and clubs into trading companies.

The representative of Swaziland said there was a natural link between the ethics of the Olympic Games and the fundamental principles of the United Nations.

Particular attention was drawn to the benefits of promoting sports among the disabled. The representative of Austria said the Special Olympics gave individuals who found themselves marginali-zed and even humiliated by society the chance to be at the centre of attention, to feel large-scale support and to become heroes.

* * *

The Security Council today decided that the election to fill the vacancy in the International Court of Justice, shall take place on 28 February 1996 at a meeting of the Council and at a meeting of the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The vacancy was created by the death of Judge Andres Aguilar Mawdsley of Venezuela.

In a resolution adopted without a vote, the Council noted with regret, the death of Judge Aguilar Mawdsley on 24 October 1995. It further noted that the vacancy in the International Court of Justice for the remainder of the term of office of the Judge must be filled in accordance with the terms of the Statute of the Court.

Judge Aguilar Mawdsley was appointed to the Court on 6 February 1991. His term of office was to end on 5 February 2000.

* * *

The Department of Public Information was the 'Flagship of Departments' and a model operation, the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) was told yesterday. Representatives told the Committee that the Department should be provided the resources needed to perform its crucial function of enlightening the world about the United Nations.

Most delegates said that the work of the Department was useful as a development tool and the General Assembly should review and increase DPI's resources. The spirit shown in seeking more funds for the budget's human rights section should be extended to DPI since its activities could be regarded as United Nations priorities.

"Public information work was just as important as the work carried out by tanks in peace-keeping operations," said the representative of China. Many of the representatives from developing countries said the Department should do more on issues of concern to developing countries, such as poverty, the environment, drought and others because those countries had no means of sharing their problems with the others.

(more)

The representative of Spain, speaking on behalf of the European Union, said although there were exceptions and improvement, much had to be done before the Union could be satisfied that the resources for the DPI were justified. And the representative of the United States suggested cost-effective measures that could be adopted by the DPI "without harming the essential mandates of the United Nations."

* * *

The ceasefire was holding well along the entire confrontation line in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to an UNPROFOR spokesman in Sarajevo. UNPROFOR was continuing efforts to obtain the speedy and unconditional release of David Rohde, the journalist detained in Bosnian Serb territory.

The situation throughout the UN's area of responsibility is, in general, stable as heavy snow and winter conditions have begun to take hold. Sarajevo was quiet. Access to the city by road and air continued unhindered and the blue routes remained open. But heavy snow on the Mt. Igman logistics road had made what is a hazardous track at the best of times, even more dangerous, according to the spokesman.

The Bosnian Serbs and the Bosnian Croats have carried out an exchange of civilians who have been displaced during fighting around Mrkonjic Grad. The spokesman said about 200 Bosnian Croats were exchanged for 100 Bosnian Serbs.

* * *

International cooperation in space technology could contribute substantially to economic and social development, and could also be a key to the future prosperity of developing countries, said the Chairman of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, Peter Hohenfellner. He told the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) what was currently being done was only a modest indication of how space technology could improve people's lives.

The representative of Spain said it was not enough to state time and again that we have moved away from the cold war...we must clearly show the benefits to all derived from the peaceful exploration of outer space.

Developing countries needed remote-sensing data at a reasonable cost and access to affordable telecommunications technology, said the representative of Burkina Faso.

* * *

Long after a conflict was over, land mines "continue to kill and maim, wreaking havoc for years to come," the representative of the United States,

Karl Inderfurth told the First Committee (Disarmament and International Security) as it began considering a draft resolution on disarmament. He said land mines were "weapons of mass destruction in slow motion". He said the United States had spent some $46 million overall for global demining and had pledged an additional $12.5 million. Noting that much remained to be done he urged States to join in co-sponsoring the draft resolution.

* * *

It's been recommended that the General Assembly amend the Charter of the United Nations to eliminate the "enemy State clauses". The Chairman of the Assembly's Legal Committee Nalin Surie of India said that the clauses had become obsolete and that States to which those clauses had been directed were valuable members of the Organization.

The "enemy State clauses" are a series of references in the Charter to any State "which during the Second World War has been an enemy of any signatory of the present Charter".

The Assembly recommended amendment of the Charter at its earliest appropriate future session.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/2018

8 November 1995

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* United Nations Mission in Haiti (UNMIH) makes substantial progress towards mandate, Secretary-General reports.

* General Assembly elects five non-permanent members of Security Council.

* Secretary-General begins visits to Poland and France.

* International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia appeals to General Assembly for adequate funding.

* South-South cooperation must be strengthened, Economic and Financial Committee is told.

* International action to resolve problems of refugees and displaced persons should tackle root causes, representatives tell Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee.

* Representatives tell Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) issue of space debris increasing matter of concern.

* Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) completes first reading of 1996-1997 budget sections.

* Oversight Office should establish procedures to prevent recurrence of administrative deficiencies, representatives tell Administrative and Budgetary (Fifth) Committee.

* Committee against Torture to hold fifteenth session at Geneva next week.

* * *

The United Nations Mission to Haiti (UNMIH) has made substantial progress towards fulfilling its mandate, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, said in his report on the Mission. The Secretary-General noted that legislative and local elections were carried out in an environment free of fear, violence and intimidation. He said it was reasonable to presume that UNMIH would be able to ensure that a similar climate would prevail during the presidential elections expected to be held in December.

(more)

For information media—not an official record

As the end of UNMIH's mandate approached, the Secretary-General pointed out, the establishment of a professional police force capable of maintaining law and order throughout the country assumed increased urgency. Mr. Boutros-Ghali cautioned that while the training of 5,000 policemen would be completed by next February, most would have limited experience. He suggested that attention be focused on the selection and training of the Haitian National Police Supervisors and on providing the force with the necessary equipment.

The Secretary-General also reiterated his appeal to Member States to give immediate and serious consideration to contributing to the voluntary fund set up to support the creation of an adequate police force in Haiti. He proposed reducing the strength of the international civilian police component significantly before the end of the year.

* * *

The General Assembly today elected five member states as non-permanent members of the Security Council. They include Egypt and Guinea-Bissau from the African Group; the Republic of Korea from the Asian Group; Poland from the Eastern European Group; and Chile from the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

The newly elected member states will take their seats in the Council on 1 January 1996 for a period of two years replacing Nigeria, Rwanda, Oman, the Czech Republic and Argentina.

The other non-permanent members of the Council are Botswana, Indonesia, Italy, Germany and Honduras.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali leaves Geneva for visits to Poland and France tomorrow.

During his three-day visit to Poland, the Secretary-General will meet with President Lech Walesa and other senior government officials. He will also deliver an address before the University of Warsaw.

Next Monday, on the invitation of the European Parliament, the Secretary-General will visit its headquarters in Strasbourg, France. He will meet with the President and deliver an address before a plenary session of the Parliament.

* * *

"When mass graves are suddenly available for inspection, we should not be agonizing over whether the funding is available for travel," the President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, Antonio Cassese said. He appealed to the General Assembly for adequate funds for the Tribunal.

As the Assembly discussed the Tribunal, several representatives shared Mr. Cassese's financial concerns. The representative of the United States urged other Member States to join his country in pledging sufficient funds to enable the Tribunal to meet its responsibilities.

The representative of Malaysia said the work of the Tribunal was important and "must not grind to a halt as a result of budgetary constraints."

On the future of the Tribunal, Mr. Cassese said the Tribunal's importance would be greater even in the event the peace negotiations were successful. "If, at the end of a war, torturers and their victims are treated alike, the war's legacy of hatred, resentment and acrimony will not have been snuffed out, rather, it will continue to smoulder."

The representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina said the issue was not revenge but justice, while the representative of the Netherlands stressed the need for cooperation by all States in supplying all available information and in the extradition of indicted suspects.

* * *

There was a need to strengthen South-South cooperation and involvement of the private sector and the donor community in triangular funding arrangements, the Second Committee (Economic and Financial) heard yesterday.

The representative of India said South-South cooperation should also be expanded by increasing product and country coverage and the private sector should also be encouraged to get involved in technical cooperation.

Speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community, the representative of Botswana said the expansion of the Community in the last few years had provided that region with new challenges and enhanced prospects for regional economic integration and also the need for new and additional resources to meet those challenges.

(more)

* * *

International action aimed at solving the situation of refugees and displaced persons should focus on tackling the root causes of the problem, representatives stated in the Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural).

The representative of Spain, speaking on behalf of the European Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia and Romania, said the best way to cope with a refugee crisis was to prevent it from occurring. Governments should tackle the root causes of conflicts that could trigger refugee flows, he said.

The representative of Ghana said the problems of internally displaced persons should be of equal importance to the work of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Currently, there were about 6 million such people in Africa. He expressed concern about the growing tendency on the part of certain States and people to close their doors and to refuse welcome to refugees who were in desperate need of asylum.

* * *

The subsidiary bodies of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space should continue to consider the issue of space debris, which was an increasing matter of concern, the representative of China told a meeting of the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization). He said international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space should be increased to benefit all mankind. International space law and order should be formulated within the United Nations system to strengthen law and order in space.

The representative of Bulgaria said the Committee should pay special attention to the need to minimize the potentially adverse impact of space debris and the possible contamination of space and the Earth's environment from space objects with nuclear power sources on board.

* * *

The Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) has concluded the first reading of the proposed United Nations budget for 1996-1997.

The Committee has reviewed sections on technological innovations; construction and major maintenance; staff assessment; and the International Seabed Authority. It also concluded the review of the three income sections - general income, staff assessments income, and income from services to the public.

The amounts proposed for the expenditure sections, after adjusting for factors such as inflation and exchange rate fluctuations, are $21.9 million for technological innovations; $46.4 for construction and maintenance; $368.6 for staff assessment; and $776,000 for the International Seabed Authority.

At the end of the first reading and the first round of informal consultations, the Committee would put together amounts approved for each section and those approved in respect of revised estimates and programme budget implications.

Several representatives made statements on the Seabed Authority. The representative of the Russian Federation said all the spending relating to the functioning of bodies of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, including the Authority, should be borne by parties to the Convention.

Her delegation attached great importance to the Authority and its appropriate funding, said the representative of Jamaica. The proposed budget should be revised to reflect the Authority's requirement for a full year, she concluded.

* * *

Several representatives told the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary) that the Office of Internal Oversight Services should establish good internal practices and procedures to prevent the recurrence of administrative deficiencies.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, the representative of Spain said that the Office should correct the deficiencies that had been observed by the Board of Auditors on the work of some organizations and also ensure the implementation of recommendations.

The representative of Norway said the increases proposed in the budget proposal were legitimate and reasonable. He welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal for the section.

The main task of the Office was to help the Organization establish a real management culture internally, said the representative of the Russian Federation.

The representative of the United States said the internal oversight functions had long been neglected and should be expanded. Effective internal oversight was a powerful tool for reducing waste and streamlining operations, he added.

Press Release DH/2018
8 November 1995

* * *

The Committee against Torture, meeting for its fifteenth session at Geneva next week, will review measures adopted by Denmark, Senegal, Guatemala, United Kingdom, Armenia and Colombia to prevent and punish acts of torture. Representatives from those six States are expected to introduce their reports before the Committee and respond to questions regarding application of the rights enshrined in the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

The Convention, adopted by the General Assembly in 1984, entered into force on 26 June 1987 and, that same year, the Committee against Torture was established to monitor compliance with the Convention and to assist States parties in implementing its provisions. It is composed of 10 independent experts, elected by States parties to the Convention.

During the two-week meeting, experts will examine information indicating systematic use of torture.

So far, 91 States have ratified the Convention and 36 have recognized the competence of the Committee under the relevant articles of the Convention.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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9 November 1995

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Security Council strongly condemns violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in former Yugoslavia.

* International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia charges three Yugoslav Army officers with crimes against humanity.

* Secretary-General meets with President of Poland in Warsaw; has meetings with Iraqi and Libyan officials in Geneva.

* Secretary-General names Aziz Hasbi as his new Special Representative in Burundi.

* Member States owe United Nations $2.85 billion as of 31 October; $660 million owed to regular budget and $2.19 billion owed to peace-keeping and International Tribunals.

* Committee on Relations with Host Country recommends General Assembly adopt set of proposals on diplomatic indebtedness.

* Third States affected by Security Council sanctions could be assisted by international financial institutions, United States tells Legal Committee.

* Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee approves draft resolution on international action to combat drug abuse.

* * *

The Security Council today condemned in the strongest possible terms all violations of international humanitarian law and of human rights in the former Yugoslavia. It demanded that all concerned comply fully with their obligations in that regard. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1019 (1995).

The Council reaffirmed its demand that the Bosnian Serbs give international agencies immediate and unimpeded access to persons displaced, detained or reported missing from Srebrenica, Zepa, Banja Luka and Sanski Most. It reaffirmed its demand that they permit representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit and register any persons detained against their will and to have access to any site deemed

(more)

For information media—not an official record

important. The Council also reaffirmed its demand that the Serbs respect fully the rights of all such persons, ensure their safety, and release them immediately.

The resolution demanded that all detention camps throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina be immediately closed. It reaffirmed further the obligation of all parties to ensure the complete freedom of movement of personnel of the United Nations and other relevant international organizations throughout the country.

The Council reaffirmed its demand that the Croatian Government take urgent measures to end violations of international humanitarian law and of human rights, and investigate all reports of such violations so that those responsible be judged and punished. It reiterated its demand that the Government respect fully the rights of the local Serb population, including their right to remain or return in safety.

The resolution demanded that all States, and all parties to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, cooperate fully with the International Tribunal, including by providing access to individuals and sites deemed important. It demanded that all parties, particularly the Bosnian Serbs, refrain from any action intended to destroy, alter, conceal or damage any evidence of violations of international humanitarian law. The Council asked the Secretary-General to report to it as soon as possible on recent violations in the areas of Srebrenica, Zepa, Banja Luka and Sanski Most.

* * *

The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia today charged three senior officers of the Yugoslav People's Army with crimes against humanity. Mile Mrksic, Miroslav Radic and Veselin Sljivancanin commanded the Army's Belgrade-based Guards Brigade when it attacked and occupied the Croatian city of Vukovar in 1991.

The three officers are alleged to have been individually responsible for the mass killing of 261 non-Serb men at Ovcara on 20 November 1991. The men were removed from the Vukovar Hospital, shot and buried in a mass grave. Individual criminal responsibility includes committing, planning, instigating, ordering or otherwise aiding and abetting in the planning, preparation or execution of crimes.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali arrived today in Warsaw, Poland, and was met at the airport by Andrzeg Ananicz, Minister in the Presidency Chancellory, and Eugeniosz Wyzner, Under-Secretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He later had a meeting with President Lech Walesa.

(more)

Yesterday, the Secretary-General met with Barzan Al Tikriti, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations Office at Geneva. The meeting dealt with the implementation of Security Council resolution 986 (1991). Mr. Boutros-Ghali transmitted to Ambassador Al Tikriti the same message he had transmitted to Vice-President Taha Marouf of Iraq at Headquarters on 27 October.

Also yesterday, the Secretary-General met with M. Abdal Ati Obeidi, Vice-Minister for European Affairs of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, and Special Envoy of the President of Libya.

* * *

The Secretary-General has designated Aziz Hasbi, a Moroccan national, as his new Special Representative in Burundi. The appointment, which is at the level of Assistant Secretary-General, takes effect immediately. Mr. Hasbi replaces Ahmedou Ould Abdallah of Mauritania, who was the Secretary-General's Special Representative in Burundi for two years.

Mr. Hasbi served as the Minister of Administrative Affairs in Morocco from 1992 to March 1995. He was Morocco's Permanent Representative to the United Nations from June 1990 to October 1991, and Secretary-General in the Ministry of Information from 1986 to 1990.

* * *

Member States owed the United Nations a total of $2.85 billion as of 31 October, down from $3.33 billion as of 30 September, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Some $664 million was owed to the regular budget and $2.186 billion was owed for peace-keeping operations and the International Tribunals.

The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $432 million to the regular budget and $835 million to peace-keeping and the International Tribunals. The Russian Federation owed the United Nations a total of $474 million.

* * *

The Committee on Relations with the Host Country has recommended that the General Assembly adopt a set of proposals on the problem of diplomatic indebtedness. It further recommended that permanent missions, their personnel and Secretariat staff pay their financial obligations promptly and in full. In adopting its report by consensus yesterday, the Committee also recommended that its working group on indebtedness continue to monitor the problem and develop solutions to it.

The Committee's report also deals with such matters as the security of missions and the safety of their personnel; issues arising in connection with the implementation of the Agreement between the United Nations and the United States Regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations; and transportation and parking.

* * *

Third States affected by the application of sanctions under Chapter VII of the Charter might benefit from the chanelling of special assistance through international financial institutions or through trade preferences, the United States representative told the Sixth Committee (Legal) today. He made that comment as the Committee continued its consideration of the Report of the Special Committee on the Charter.

The representative of France said the European Union would table a draft resolution which sought to facilitate such assistance without altering the political balance of the United Nations. He added that there was no provision in the Charter which granted a right to compensation.

* * *

The Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural) yesterday approved a draft resolution that would have the General Assembly call on all States to adopt adequate laws to strengthen national judicial systems and to carry out effective drug control activities in cooperation with other States. It would also take note of the Economic and Social Council's proposal to hold a second international conference on combatting illicit drugs and would request the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to discuss the issue at its thirty-ninth session. The Commission would be requested to present its conclusions, through the Council, to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

The Committee also approved a draft resolution on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family. By its terms, the General Assembly would urge governments to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, so that universal ratification could be achieved by the year 2000. It would also urge governments to take urgent action to achieve universal ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by 1996.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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10 November 1995

F R I D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Security Council adjusts UNOMIL mandate, noting progress towards peaceful resolution of conflict in Liberia; stresses importance of national reconciliation.

* Secretary-General condemns hanging of nine minority-rights activists in Nigeria despite numerous international appeals.

* Croatia moves troops and heavy weapons towards zone of separation in Eastern Slavonia; Co-Chairman Stoltenberg says situation can be resolved peacefully through negotiation.

* Secretary-General welcomes Carter initiative to convene African conference for peace in Rwanda and Burundi.

* United Nations and German Government sign Agreement on relocation of United Nations Volunteers headquarters to Bonn.

* Special Political and Decolonization Committee approves draft resolution calling for prevention of arms race in outer space.

* * *

The Security Council today adjusted the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), as recommended by the Secretary-General in his report dated 23 October. It welcomed his recommendations concerning the new concept of operations for the Mission. The Council noted the appreciable progress made by the Liberian parties towards the peaceful resolution of the conflict, including the re-establishment of a cease-fire, installation of the new Council of State, and an agreement on a timetable for implementation of the peace process. It took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 1020 (1995).

The Council defined UNOMIL's mandate as follows: to exercise its good offices to support the efforts of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Liberian National Transitional Government (LNTG) to implement the peace agreements; to investigate cease-fire violations and recommend measures to prevent their recurrence; to monitor compliance with the other military provisions of the peace agreements, including disengagement of forces, disarmament and observance of the arms embargo; and to assist in the

(more)

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maintenance of assembly sites and in the implementation of a programme for demobilization of combatants.

UNOMIL was also mandated to support humanitarian assistance activities; investigate violations of human rights and assist local human rights groups in raising voluntary contributions for training and logistical support; and observe and verify the election process, including the legislative and presidential elections to be held in accordance with the peace agreements. The Council decided that the Mission would have a maximum of 160 military observers.

The Council reiterated that continued international support for the Liberan peace process was contingent on the continued commitment by the parties to achieve national reconciliation in line with the peace process. It asked the Secretary-General to submit by 15 December a progress report on the situation in Liberia, including the implementation of UNOMIL's adjusted mandate, as well as its new concept of operations.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali said today that he was shocked and appalled to learn of the execution by hanging of nine Nigerian minority-rights activists, including the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa. He deplored the executions, which had been carried out in defiance of numerous appeals by the international community and all friends of Nigeria. He urged the Government of Nigeria to abide by its international obligations and to fully respect the rights of minorities.

As he continued his visit to Poland today, the Secretary-General addressed a joint meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament. He expressed his gratitude for Poland's strong support of the United Nations.

* * *

Croatia has been moving troops, bridging equipment, artillery pieces and tanks towards the zone of separation in Eastern Slavonia, the only Croatian region still controlled by Serbs, according to a United Nations spokesman. There have been no significant movements by the Serbs, who have been in a defensive posture for some months.

The Secretary-General discussed the troop movements with the Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg, in Geneva yesterday. Mr. Stoltenberg said he believed the situation could be resolved peacefully through negotiations.

* * *

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The Secretary-General today welcomed the initiative taken by former United States President Jimmy Carter to convene an African conference for peace in Rwanda and Burundi. He expressed the hope that it would lead to lasting peace in both countries and to the speedy return of refugees on a voluntary basis. He also indicated that the United Nations would send observers to the conference, which was expected to take place in Cairo on 27 November.

* * *

The United Nations and the German Government today signed an Agreement clearing the way for the relocation of the headquarters of the United Nations Volunteers from Geneva to Bonn. The move was first proposed by the Secretary-General to Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The Agreement, negotiated between the German authorities, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Volunteers, sets out the terms and conditions under which the first headquarters of a United Nations organization will be established in Germany. Scheduled to take place by 1 July 1996, the move will be funded in full by the German Government.

* * *

The Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) yesterday approved a draft resolution that would have the General Assembly urge all States, particularly those with major space capabilities, to prevent an arms race in outer space. The Committee took that action as it concluded its consideration of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

By the terms of the draft, which was approved without a vote, the Assembly would reaffirm the importance of international cooperation in developing the rule of law for the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. It would emphasize the need to increase the benefits of space technology and its applications, and to contribute to an orderly growth of space activities favourable to the socio-economic advancement of humanity, particularly for people in developing countries.

* * *

Correction:

The last headline in the Daily Highlights of 7 November and the story which accompanied it should have read as follows:

* Legal Committee considers report recommending General Assembly delete enemy State clauses from Charter.

* The Sixth Committee (Legal) yesterday began its consideration of the report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization. The Report recommended that the General Assembly amend the Charter to eliminate the "enemy State clauses".

The enemy State clauses are a series of references in the Charter to any State "which during the Second World War has been an enemy of any signatory of the present Charter".

The Chairman of the Special Committee, Nalin Surie (India), said that the clauses had become obsolete and that States to which they had been directed were valuable Members of the Organization.

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UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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13 November 1995

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council adopts annual report to General Assembly, covering period 16 June 1994 to 15 June 1995.

- Croatian Government and Serbs sign Basic Agreement on Eastern Slavonia; Security Council to establish transitional administration to govern Region.

- Secretary-General visits Auschwitz concentration camp; to address European Parliament in Strasbourg tomorrow.

- Streamlining of financial and administrative procedures has enhanced United Nations peace-keeping capabilities, Under-Secretary-General Kittani says.

- Georgian-Abkhaz peace process remains deadlocked, Secretary-General reports; build-up of pressures could lead to resumption of hostilities.

- Secretary-General continues efforts to convene regional conference on security and stability in Africa's Great Lakes Region.

- Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is meeting commitment to close border with Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Co-Chairmen of ICFY report.

- United Nations premises in Guatemala and Angola attacked over weekend.

* * *

The Security Council today adopted its fiftieth report to the General Assembly, covering the period 16 June 1994 to 15 June 1995. During that period, the Council held 152 meetings, adopted 70 resolutions and issued 82 Presidential statements. In addition, Council members held 274 consultations of the whole, totaling some 420 hours. The Council considered around 100 reports by the Secretary-General and more than 1,000 documents and communications from States and regional and intergovernmental organizations.

(more)

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Part I of the report deals with questions considered by the Council under its responsibility for international peace and security. Items under that heading include the situation concerning Rwanda, the situations in the former Yugoslavia, Haiti, Somalia, Liberia, Burundi, and Georgia, and the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Other items relate to Somalia, Angola, Mozambique, Central America, Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Tajikistan.

Part II deals with other matters, such as the Presidency of the Council, the current draft report, the election of members of the International Court of Justice, admission of new members, and Council working methods and procedure. Part III covers the work of the Military Staff Committee, while Part IV lists communications on matters brought to the Council's attention but not discussed at formal meetings.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today congratulated the Croatian Government and the local Serb authorities on the signing of the Basic Agreement on the Region of Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium. He described it as an encouraging step in the peaceful resolution of all issues in the former Yugoslavia, for which the United Nations had worked tirelessly.

The Basic Agreement requested the Security Council to establish a transitional administration to govern Eastern Slavonia for a transitional period of 12 months. It also requested the Council to authorize an international force to maintain peace and security and otherwise assist in the Agreement's implementation. The force would also determine the schedule and procedures for the demilitarization of the Region.

The Secretary-General said the United Nations was prepared to become fully engaged in the implementation of the Basic Agreement, once the relevant Council resolution had been adopted and adequate financial resources had been made available. He appealed to the parties to demonstrate their goodwill and to cooperate fully with the transitional administration in the implementation of the Agreement.

* * *

The Secretary-General was in Strasbourg, France, today for an official visit to the European Parliament, according to a United Nations spokesman. He had meetings with representatives of the Council of Europe and with the Mayor of Strasbourg. He was scheduled to address the Parliament and to meet with the European Commission tomorrow.

Before concluding his visit to Poland yesterday, Mr. Boutros-Ghali visited the Auschwitz concentration camp. After touring the camp, he laid a wreath at the Wall of Death. He later laid another wreath at the Memorial of Nations at Birkenau.

(more)

"The Auschwitz camp is a symbol of all the evil that man can do to man," he said. "It is important that people all over the world know what happened here to avoid the repetition of Auschwitz in different parts of the world. The international community has to continue to strive to prevent similar atrocities from happening ever again. This is one of the objectives of the United Nations."

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The streamlining of financial and administrative procedures has improved the Organization's ability to respond to situations in the field, the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Ismat Kittani, said today. He made that comment to the Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization) as it began its consideration of peace-keeping operations.

In the past year, the Office of Planning and Support had been strengthened, Mr. Kittani noted. Meanwhile, the Military Adviser's Office and the Office of Operations had been modestly enhanced, mostly with military officers made available by Member States on a short-term basis, at no cost to the United Nations. However, if the Organization were to develop an experienced staff, the structure should be comprised of core posts.

Regional training workshops had been conducted in Europe and Latin America, and more were planned for Asia and Africa next year, Mr. Kittani continued. The United Nations had also established teams to assist interested countries in developing training programmes. Stand-by arrangements were also being developed. "Building on this relatively new, but promising, system will remain a priority, and I take this opportunity to encourage all Member States to participate," he added.

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The Georgian-Abkhaz peace process remains deadlocked, mainly because the Abkhaz side is unwilling to offer concessions on its future political status, according to the Secretary-General. In a report dated 8 November, he said the Abkhaz side hoped that changes in the external political environment could enable it to maintain its present position in the negotiating process. He warned that the longer the conflict remained unresolved, the more those hopes could lead to a further isolation of the Abkhaz side, particularly in view of the international community's consistent support for the territorial integrity of Georgia. More disturbingly, a build-up of pressures could lead to a resumption of hostilities.

The Secretary-General said his Special Envoy remained ready to mediate between the two sides. Meanwhile, the resident Deputy was working to help reactivate the negotiation process by consulting intensively with all sides, including the Russian Federation. However, for real progress to be achieved, both sides must show that they were willing and able to reach a comprehensive settlement based on three essential elements -- the safe and orderly return of refugees and internally displaced persons, maintenance of Georgia's territorial integrity, and a special status for Abkhazia.

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The Secretary-General has been continuing his efforts to convene a Regional Conference on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa. In a letter to the Security Council President dated 10 November, he said his Special Envoy for the purpose had held high-level consultations with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and the Governments of Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania.

Most Governments supported the idea of a regional conference, he continued. However, Rwanda had expressed strong opposition to it, while Uganda was not keen to have the United Nations actively involved in the process. "Notwithstanding these reservations, the United Nations will continue to monitor developments in the region and I shall revert to the Security Council if it appears that conditions exist for the successful convening of a conference."

In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 10 November, the Security Council expressed support for all efforts to reduce tension and restore stability in the Great Lakes Region. It encouraged him to continue his contacts with the aim of convening a conference.

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The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) is meeting its commitment to close its border with Serb-controlled areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia. In a report on the operations of the Conference's Mission to the Federal Republic, they also concluded that there had been no commercial transshipments across the border between the two countries in the last 30 days. The report was transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in a letter dated 10 November.

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Twenty-five bullets were fired at a regional office of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) over the weekend, a spokesman for the Organization said today. Nobody was injured in the attack and no motive was established for it.

Meanwhile, two grenades were thrown at a United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM III) complex in the Kabinda region of Angola. A Bangladeshi officer was injured in that attack, although he was later reported to be in a stable condition. The attackers were not apprehended.

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* General Assembly discusses question of equitable representation on and increase in membership of Security Council.

* Secretary-General addresses European Parliament in Strasbourg; meets with President of European Union and Commissioner for External Relations.

* International Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia indicts six Bosnian Croat officials for persecution of Bosnian Muslims.

* UNEP report says humans are destroying Earth's biodiversity at unprecedented rates; many animal and plant species face extinction.

* As Legal Committee considers Decade of International Law, Russian Federation expands on proposal for peace conference in 1999.

* Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to hold thirteenth session in Geneva from 20 November to 8 December.

* * *

The General Assembly has been considering the question of equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council. It has heard calls for democratization of the Council, for more equitable geographical representation on it, for greater transparency in its work, and for limitation, if not elimination, of the veto.

The United States representative told the Assembly that his country was committed to finding the proper overall package of changes to expand the Council. With their record of constructive global influence and their capacity to sustain heavy global responsibilities, Japan and Germany should be permanent members, he said. In fact, the United States could not agree to a Council expansion that did not result in their permanent membership.

The representative of Egypt said the underrepresentation of the Non-Aligned Movement in the Security Council must be addressed. Expansion of the

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Council should not lead to an increase in the number of permanent seats for developed States at the expense of developing ones. The relations of the General Assembly and the Council must be reviewed.

The representative of Kenya yesterday expressed support for expansion of the Council to 25 members. Membership should be based on the principle of equitable geographic representation. Honduras, speaking also on behalf of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Panama, said only a Council with a broad membership would have the credibility necessary to spur Member States to participate in the collective responsibility of maintaining peace and security.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today addressed the European Parliament in Strasbourg, according to a United Nations spokesman. He also met with the President of the European Union and the Commissioner for External Relations.

The Secretary-General expressed the hope that the European Union would offer assistance in providing ideas and suggestions to solve the United Nations financial crisis. The President said he would bring up the issue of putting the Organization on a sound financial footing at the next summit meeting of the European Council in Madrid in mid-December.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali also met with the Ambassadors of the Arab Maghreb Union based in Brussels, who briefed him on preparations for an upcoming conference in Barcelona on Euro-Mediterranean affairs. He later left Strasbourg for Geneva, where he was due to meet with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Jose Ayala Lasso.

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The International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia has indicted six Bosnian Croat officials for the persecution on political, racial and religious grounds of Bosnian Muslims. Warrants for their arrest were issued yesterday and forwarded to the relevant authorities in Sarajevo, Mostar and Zagreb.

Among the six accused were the Vice-President of the Croatian community of Herceg-Bosna, Dario Kordic, and the Chief of Staff of the Croatian Defence Council, Tihomir Blaskic. They were charged with crimes against humanity, grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and war crimes.

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Humans are destroying the Earth's biodiversity at unprecedented rates, according to a report by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). It said that from 5 to 20 per cent of some groups of animal and plant species were threatened with extinction unless present trends were reversed. The report, entitled the Global Biodiversity Assessment, was released today at the second Conference of Parties to the Conference on Biological Diversity, in Jakarta, Indonesia.

The report said the Earth was losing genes and habitats, or ecosystems, at alarming rates. It warned that the loss of biological resources endangered humanity's food supplies, sources of wood, medicines and energy, and opportunities for recreation and tourism. Such loss also interfered with essential ecological functions, such as water run-off, control of soil erosion, assimilation of wastes and water purification.

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The proposed 1999 third international peace conference should focus on the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention of armed conflict, the Russian representative told the Sixth Committee (Legal) today as it began consideration of the United Nations Decade of International Law. He recalled that his country had sponsored the 1899 and 1907 Hague Peace Conferences.

Reiterating the proposal made by President Boris Yeltsin at the General Assembly's fiftieth anniversary commemorative session, the Russian representative said the conference should address legal norms of peace enforcement, international sanctions, international humanitarian law and the establishment of an international criminal justice system. The year 1999 would mark the end of the Decade of International Law and would be the one-hundredth anniversary of the first Peace Conference, he noted.

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The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights is to hold its thirteenth session in Geneva from 20 November to 8 December. It will consider the measures taken by Colombia, Norway, Mauritius, Ukraine and Algeria to implement the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. A total of 133 States are parties to the Covenant.

The Covenant seeks to promote and protect three kinds of rights -- the right to work in just and favourable conditions; the right to social protection, to an adequate standard of living and to the highest attainable standards of physical and mental well-being; and the right to education and the enjoyment of benefits of cultural freedom and scientific progress.

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W E D N E S D A Y H I G H L I G H T S

* Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali says the past year has seen important progress in the Middle East peace process.

* Meeting in Geneva, Secretary-General and President of ICRC review close cooperation between organizations.

* In Haiti, the situation is slowly returning to normal after two days of demonstrations.

* In the Economic and Financial Committee, Member States draw attention to opportunities, risks and uncertainties in globalization of the world economy.

* Traditional approaches to world's refugee problem are increasingly inadequate, UNHCR Sadako Ogata says, launching Second Annual Report on State of World's Refugees.

* In Bosnia, the peace process continues to hold; utility situation is described as moderate.

* The Secretary-General says the United Nations is far from having a rapid reaction capability.

* Committee against Torture is to review measures to carry out provisions of Convention against Torture, in fifteenth session, in Geneva.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said the past year has seen important progress in the Middle East peace process. In a report on the situation in the Middle East, the Secretary-General said the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, signed in September, represented a significant step forward in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles. He said it provided a basis for the realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, a goal that had long been sought by the United Nations. The Secretary-General expressed the hope that

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the resolve and dedication to peace shown by Israeli and Palestinian leaders would continue to guide them through the transitional stage until a permanent settlement was reached on the basis of Security Council resolutions.

It was his hope that these developments, together with the ongoing implementation of the Israeli-Jordanian peace accord would generate momentum for progress on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese tracks of the Middle East peace talks leading to a lasting solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. According to Mr. Boutros-Ghali, the United Nations would continue to support the peace process, politically and economically, in order to reinforce what had been achieved in the course of the negotiations and help build the foundations for a new post-conflict Middle East.

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The situation in the former Yugoslavia was among the subjects of a meeting in Geneva today, between the Secretary-General and his Special Representative Kofi Annan, High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata, High Commissioner for Human Rights Jose Ayala Lasso, and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights Ibrahima Fall.

This morning, the Mr. Boutros-Ghali visited the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and met with the President of the ICRC. They reviewed the scope of the extensive cooperation between the two organizations, particularly in Africa and the former Yugoslavia. Both the Secretary-General and the President of the ICRC expressed their gratitude to one another at the closeness of the working relationship and cooperation, according to a spokesman.

The Secretary-General is returning to headquarters today, following his trip to Europe.

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In Haiti, the situation has been slowly returning to normal throughout the country. There was still some unrest in Cap Haitien. Two local journalists had been threatened and one of them abducted, according to a spokesman. The Pakistani battalion was on the alert for any possible difficulties. In Gonaive, the situation was calm. Investigations indicated that United Nations forces were definitely not involved in the shooting incident in which an individual was killed.

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In the Economic and Financial Committee, several Member States have drawn attention to the opportunities, challenges, risks and uncertainties of the process of globalization of the world economy. The Committee has been

continuing its debate on trade and development, science and technology for development and the Programme for the Least Developed Countries.

The representative of Colombia warned that some countries continued to ignore agreed rules of the multilateral trade system, bending to domestic pressures. He said negotiating practices which characterized the Uruguay Round were being repeated in the World Trade Organization, where groups of countries were taking decisions which were then presented to the participants as a fait accompli. He stressed that issues on the agenda of the new organization should not go beyond its mandate.

The representative of China said his country was still being excluded from the World Trade Organization because of interference and obstruction by a few countries.

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Traditional approaches to the world's refugee problem were increasingly inadequate, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Sadako Ogata said in Geneva on Wednesday, as she launched the Second Annual Report on the State of the World's Refugees. The nature and scale of modern conflicts, which were almost all internal conflicts, and which intentionally targeted and displaced large numbers of civilians, was one major reason why a new approach was needed, Mrs. Ogata indicated.

The High Commissioner for Refugees said that there are now about fifteen million refugees in the world, or about the same number as in 1990. But the number of internally displaced people who had fled their homes but not crossed international borders had dramatically increased from about two million in 1990 to twelve million in 1995.

Mrs. Ogata told journalists at the press conference launching the annual report that the search for solutions to refugee problems now must focus on a country of origin, as well as on the countries where the refugees sought asylum.

The High Commissioner for Refugees called for greater respect for human rights, including a greater commitment to identify, prosecute, and punish those responsible for war crimes and human rights abuses. As a deterrent to prevent new refugee outflows and to help shape a solution to existing crisis, Mrs. Ogata said that the international community should devote more resources to promote human rights, and to enhance and support the judicial and law-enforcement systems in countries to which refugees are returning. UNHCR staff working in the field on the protection of refugees and displaced people have become, in effect, part of an international human rights presence, she said.

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In Bosnia, there has been another positive development stemming from the joint commission meeting assembled for the implementation of the ceasefire agreement. The Commander of Sector Sarajevo, General Bachelet opened the road between the Serb-held districts in Sarajevo Wednesday.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Government and Serb officials began talks on Tuesday on the opening of new access roads to the Bosnian capital. Meanwhile the utility situation in Sarajevo was moderately good, according to a United Nations spokesman. Electricity was on full-time, water was available a few hours a day and gas every other day.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said the United Nations was currently far from having a rapid reaction capability, despite the fact that there was no lack of willingness, among member States, to make troops and equipment available for peace-keeping operations. In a report on standby arrangements for peace-keeping, the Secretary-General welcomed recent initiatives by member States to address the issue, either individually or in partnership with other States.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali said the Secretariat would continue its dialogue with Governments with a view to broadening the geographical base of available resources and obtaining information necessary to facilitate and accelerate the organization, planning and deployment of peace-keeping operations. The Secretary-General said the system of standby arrangements had proven most useful in its ability to expedite planning. The information provided had facilitated the process of identifying possible troop contributors and planning for deployment of troops and equipment.

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The Committee against Torture has begun its fifteenth session in Geneva. It is examining information that appears to contain well-founded indications that torture was being systematically practiced in a State party to the Convention. The Committee will also consider communications from individuals claiming to be victims of a violation by a State party of the provisions of the Convention.

The Committee was briefed on the results of the various readings by the open-ended working group on the draft Optional Protocol to the Convention. The Committee's Rapporteur, Bent Sorensen, expert from Denmark, who participated in the meeting of the working group, said the process for the realization of the protocol might take more than 10 years. Its aim would be to reinforce preventive measures against torture through field inspections of States parties by experts who would be designated for that purpose.

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